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General Summary of News.

ASIA.

Baghdad.—By a paragraph in the Bombay Courier which came to hand yesterday, we learn that the intense heat of the season, which we some time ago described from private Letters that had reached us from the Persian Gulf has been equally experienced at Baghdad. By advices from this city, says the writer dated August 26th, 1818, we learn that the distress of the people there had been greatly increased by the most tremendously hot summer ever known even in that parched country. The thermometers, placed in the coolest part of the house of the writer of the account, rose to 120°, and at midnight were sometimes at 108° in the open air. There had been, in the commencement of August, a storm accompanied by heavy rain, an occurrence said to be totally unprecedented in that climate at that season, and the effect on the burning soil, already overheated by the fierce simoon, was similar to that of the hottest steam bath. Multitudes of people, both in the country and in the streets of the city, dropped down dead from the intense heat. One small caravan lost 22 persons in this manner in the last three days of its journey towards Baghdad; and every hour brought accounts of some fearful accident of this nature. The river rose in one night two yards and a half above its ordinary level and became of a turbid red color, the waters were so offensive that it was impossible to drink of them. The people exclaimed that the day of judgement was at hand, deprecatory hymns were chaunted from the minarets, and the utmost dismay and consternation prevailed. The extreme heat had subsided at the date of the account, but the thermometer remained then at 105°.

The situation of Baghdad on a perfect plain, surrounded on all sides by Arid Deserts, occasions it to suffer great vicissitudes of climate. In the winter months it is uncomfortably cold and exposed without shelter to the bleak north-west, and north-east winds that come down from the snowy mountains of Koordistan, while in the summer months the heat is so intolerable, particularly during the Simoons or Desert winds, that the inhabitants mostly live in subterranean cells by day and sleep invariably in the open air at night.

Bombay.—The most prominent topic of interest at this Presidency is the departure of the Expedition under Sir William Grant Keir, of which we have before given notice, and of which we shall again have something to say shortly. The following notice regarding it is from the Bombay Courier of the 6th instant:

Expedition to the Persian Gulf.—The first section of the troops destined for this service consisting of the Artillery and H. M. 47th and 65th Regiments embarked on board their respective ships early on Saturday morning; displaying on their embarkation, the most perfect good order and regularity, thereby confirming the character they have on many occasions obtained of being excellent soldiers. In the afternoon the ships proceeded out of the harbour and anchored without the reefs off Old Woman's Island. The embarkation of the Native troops took place on Sunday morning, and the ships proceeded to join the first division near whom they anchored.

Major General Sir W. G. Keir, K. M. T. in command of the Force for service in the Persian Gulf, embarked on board his Majesty's ship Liverpool on Wednesday morning last. The signal to get under weigh was made immediately after, and the frigate with the ships under her convoy proceeded to sea that afternoon. The remaining ships, consisting of the Francis Warden, Conde de Rio Parde, Orient and Upton Castle, will follow in about eight or ten days.

On Monday morning, the late Governor the Right Honorable Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. previously to his departure for England, held a *Levee* at Government House, which was most numerously attended. Sir Evan embarked on board the Albion, Captain Lydie, for London, about two o'clock in the afternoon, with the honors, and under the salutes due to his rank, from the saluting battery and H. M. ship Liverpool. He was accompanied on board by his Staff and several of his personal friends. The Albion being quite ready, proceeded immediately on her voyage, and was out of sight before sunset.

Monday and Tuesday were occupied in making some arrangements for taking up another ship or two, as store and hospital ships, as it was found, that in case of sickness the ships were rather crowded.

They were in consequence delayed for a day to permit the transferring of some men to the new transports; but it is supposed the expedition will sail in the course of this day, leaving a small squadron to follow as soon as they can be got ready; the fleet now about to sail, will consist of the following ships:—

H. M. Ships—Liver pool and Curlew.

H. C. Cruiser—Aurora.

Transports.—Hannah Ann, F. T. Jessy, Orphens F. T. Jemima F. T. Gleneig, Bombay Castle, Pascon, Diana, Ernaad, Faiz Rahimany, Angelica, Carron, and Cornwall; in all 7068 Tons, with about 4900 Troops and Followers.

Bombay, Oct. 30.—Major Colebrooke, of the Royal Artillery, and Supernumerary Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor General, has been appointed Deputy Quarter-Master General to the Force proceeding on service to the Persian Gulph.

Captain D. Wilson, who had been nominated Assistant Quarter-Master General on the expedition, has been appointed Military Secretary to Sir William Grant Keir.

The station of Malwan, as a separate command under the Bombay Government, has been abolished, and the whole of the Southern Concan has been formed into one command, to which a Brigade Major has been allowed, and the situation of Line Adjutant at Severndroog has been abolished. Lieut. Col. Kennedy has been appointed to the command of the Southern Concan.

Bombay, Nov. 3.—For several successive evenings, we have had squalls from the Eastward, with some thunder, lightning, and rain, on the evening of the 27th ultimo particularly. We learn also, that those indications of the Monsoon, on the opposite coast, were more frequent and violent at Poonah.

A Fire broke out on Sunday evening, in the huts occupied by a Battalion of Sepoys, near the Boree Bunder, which burnt about 200 of them to the ground, but we are happy to state, that no accident whatsoever occurred.

Poonah.—A meeting was held at Poonah on Monday the 25th October, for the purpose of preparing a Farewell Address to the Honorable M. Elphinstone on the occasion of his departure from the Deccan.

Brigadier General Smith having been invited to take the chair, and several outlines of an Address having been submitted by gentlemen present the following Civil and Military Officers were proposed as a committee to select and frame a final one from the materials laid before them:

Mr. Chaplain,	Lt. Col. Hessman,	Major Bingham,
Mr. Lumsden,	Lt. Col. Colebrooke,	Major Sutherland, and
Lt. Col. Cox,	Dr. Coats,	Major McLeod.

These gentlemen retired into another apartment from that in which the meeting was convened and soon after returned with an Address which was entirely approved of and immediately signed by all the party, and by proxy, for many others who were unavoidably absent from duty, or being at too great a distance to attend.

A deputation composed of Gen. Smith, Mr. Chaplin and Colonel Cox afterwards waited on Mr. Elphinstone to ascertain when it would be most agreeable to him to receive the Address, when that gentleman was pleased to fix half past eight that evening.

At 7½ the whole of the Settlement was to meet at a hall given by Mr. Elphinstone, but long before that period the room was crowded with gentlemen who were anxious to evince their respect and esteem by being in attendance at the presentation of the Address. At the appointed hour accordingly General Smith, accompanied by a great number of Civil and Military Officers, received Mr. Elphinstone in the centre of the superb suite of rooms where the following Address was read and presented to him by the General.

To the Honorable MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE.

Sole Commissioner, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, The Civil and Military Officers who have had the honour and happiness of serving under your administration, since the breaking out of the late war, viewing the near approach of your departure from the Deccan, beg leave to offer you their sincere congratulations on your elevation to the more important Government of Bombay.

Permit us to assure you, on this occasion, of the exultation we have enjoyed in seeing your public services so acknowledged, and to express our sanguine hopes of seeing them still further rewarded.

Our country at large does not fail to admire your talents, but it is those who have been fortunately associated in the public service under you, who can best appreciate the amiable disposition which ever guided the zealous exercise of your official authority; and animated our exertions, whilst it secured our private happiness.

We trust we do not exceed the legitimate object of a Farewell Address, which disavows adulation, or flattery, when we beg to express our admiration of the magnanimity and liberal policy with which you have governed and conciliated the inhabitants of the conquered territory; and which, by softening the distresses, inseparable, perhaps, from such a sudden revolution of government, have laid the foundation of their confidence and attachment to British rule, and have eminently upheld the national character in its purest attributes of generosity and justice.

With this tribute to you as an illustrious statesman of the most enlightened times, permit us also to join our remembrance of your conspicuous gallantry throughout the war, in every opportunity afforded you, from the glorious conflict at Kirkee to its termination.

The complicated duties of your important commission never restrained the chivalrous feelings with which you sought military service, and devoted yourself to danger by heroic example.

Let us add to these irresistible sources of our admiration our deep and heartfelt acknowledgements of your uniform kindness and attention to us, in private life.

Even our congratulations on your advancement to a more exalted station, cannot go unmingled with our regret, on losing the universal friend of our society: your liberal hospitality shown to all, rendering us as it were, members of one large and happy family of which you were the head, must be recollected with gratitude as long as memory remains.

You carry with you, Sir, to your new destination our grateful affections. The individuals who now address you, however they may be dispersed hereafter, will contemplate the fortunate period which they have served under you; amongst their happiest days; and these recollections will be accompanied with our unalterable and ardent wishes for your future fame and happiness.

(Signed.) Colonel Smith, W. Chaplin, J. Colebrooke and Officers of the 8th Light Cavalry. H. Hennessey, Lieutenant Colonel, and for absent Officers Horse and Foot Artillery. E. R. Macdonell, G. M. Cox, J. Cunningham, Lieutenant Colonel, for absent Officers, Auxiliary Horse. W. Hull, Thomas Tod, Mardon Superintendent Surgeon, P. D. in behalf of Medical Officers in the Decan. W. Pantou, Surgeon. R. Wallace, Assistant Surgeon. R. Thew, J. Sutherland, W. Sandwith, J. S. Halifax, J. Mayne, J. Griffith, T. Baillie, W. D. Robertson, G. Midford and Officers 2d Battalion 11th Regiment. J. Ford, P. Lodwick, N. Beets, J. Hicks, F. Hicks, T. Morris, M. Galway, T. Harris, J. Sykes, H. Mallett, E. Shaw, F. Taylor, R. O. Meriton, R. Eckford, G. B. Brooks, D. McLeod, J. McLeod, J. Nutt, J. Jopp, P. P. Staunton, J. Price, John Watts, R. W. Giltum, J. Lawrie, J. H. Dunsterville, H. D. Robertson, F. Edwards and the Officers of the 2d 8th Regiment at Suvar. H. Tovey, C. B. James, W. Spiller, P. Fearon, A. Morse, A. Rind, J. Rind, A. McLeod, J. Brough, C. Jameson, R. Mansfield, J. Grant (Sattara), D. Campbell, J. Briggs and the Civil Authorities in Candish. J. Sheriff, F. Hunter, H. Radford, J. Kaye, J. Gibbon, W. H. Sykes, T. Coats, E. Millward, W. Gordon, J. Hangeek, H. Portinger, W. B. Hockley, A. Crawford, A. Henderson, A. J. O. Brown, W. D. Cleland, A. Gibson, A. Burnett, W. J. Lonsden, H. J. McIlraith, A. E. R. McDonnell, J. H. Little, C. Bingham, W. S. Kennedy, H. Lushington, R. Patis, G. Maquay, R. Bridges, J. Taylor, H. P. Longdill, S. Athill, R. P. Sharpe, W. Wilkins, W. Dalgairns, J. Elder, N. C. Maw, J. Osborne, W. Comine, G. C. Taylor, G. P. Taylor, C. Wright, C. Watkins, J. Smith, St. Shaw, A. Dod, J. R. Hughes, J. Motesworth, T. Thatcher, G. Challen, S. Slight, J. Clunes, J. Traberne, J. Salter.

To this Address, Mr. Elphinstone with much emotion returned the following Reply.

GENTLEMEN,

Notwithstanding the polite intimation conveyed to me this afternoon, I find myself unprepared to reply as I should wish to an Address, couched in language so flattering and so kind; such a compliment, from the society in which I have so long resided, and to whose good opinion I attach so high a value, is the proudest testimonial I could possibly have received.

I am particularly gratified by your opinion of my anxiety to promote the happiness of our Native subjects, which has always been my greatest ambition; and my wishes have been fully seconded by the ability of the Civil Officers, the exemplary discipline of the Military, and the zeal and humanity of all.

I owe you, Gentlemen, still the higher acknowledgements for the support and assistance I have received from you in carrying the Government Orders regarding this country into effect. I shall never forget

these services, and shall cherish the memory of the interesting period we have witnessed together, and of the happy days I have spent in your society.

To General Smith, I have often had to repeat my obligations, and I have now again to thank him for the handsome manner in which he has communicated the sentiments of the society.

The following Official Document which nominates the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone to the Office of Governor of Bombay is worthy of preservation in its original form.

Bombay Castle, 1st Nov. 1819. — By the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council.

The Hon'ble the Governor in Council is pleased to direct, that the Commission appointing the Hon'ble Mountstuart Elphinstone to the Office of Governor of Bombay and its dependencies and Commander in Chief of the Fort and Garrison and of all the Forces that are now, or hereafter shall be employed within the said Fort and Garrison, be read as follows at the different stations of the Army, under the usual observances, as soon after this order is received as may be practicable.

The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come, send Greeting: Know ye, that we the said United Company reposing especial Trust and confidence in the Fidelity, Prudence, Justice and circumspection of the Hon'ble MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE, have nominated, made, constituted and appointed and by these Presents do nominate, make, constitute and appoint, the said MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE to be our PRESIDENT and GOVERNOR of BOMBAY in the EAST INDIES, of and for all our Affairs at Bombay and in SURAT, CAMBAY, and PERSIA, and at all other places and for all such Affairs as are now subject to the Government of, or are managed by, the said Presidency of Bombay and of all the TERRITORIES thereunto now belonging, and of all and singular the FORTS, FACTORIES, SETTLEMENTS, TERRITORIES, COUNTRIES AND JURISDICTIONS thereof, and to execute all and every the Powers and Authorities thereunto appertaining by Order and Direction of our Court of Directors for the time being, and of such other Persons as in and by an Act of Parliament made in the Thirty Third Year of the Reign of His present Majesty entitled, "An Act for continuing in the East India Company for a further term, the Possession of the British Territories in India, together with their exclusive Trade under certain Limitations; for establishing further Regulations for the Government of the said Territories and the better Administration of Justice within the same; for appropriating to certain uses the Revenues and Profits of the said Company, and for making Provision for the good Order and Government of the Towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay," are empowered to give any Orders to the said United Company's servants in India in certain cases in the said Act mentioned. To take upon him, hold and enjoy the said Office upon and from the 1st day of November 1819, or upon and from the death, resignation or coming away of the Right Honorable Sir Evan Nepean, Bart. our present President and Governor of Bombay aforesaid, if either of such last mentioned events shall happen before the said 1st day of November 1819, and to continue in the exercise of the said Office during the pleasure of us and of our Court of Directors, and until the contrary thereof shall be signified under our Seal, or under the hands of thirteen or more of the said Court of Directors for the time being, but subject nevertheless to such other removal and recall as in the said Act of Parliament is mentioned.

AND TO THE END that the said MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE may be better enabled to order and manage all the Affairs of us the said United Company, we do direct, that the persons who shall be Councillors of the said Presidency, when the said Mountstuart Elphinstone shall take the said Office of President or Governor upon him, and such other Persons who shall have been or hereafter shall be appointed Councillors of the said Presidency, shall be Councillors of the said Presidency or Settlement for governing and managing all our Affairs at Bombay and other the places aforesaid, and governing the Town and Castle of Bombay, and all other our FORTS, FACTORIES and Settlements within any of the said Territories, subject nevertheless to the Provisions contained in the said Act passed in the Thirty Third Year of the Reign of His said Majesty, and we do hereby give and grant unto our said President and Governor Mountstuart Elphinstone and to our Council aforesaid or the Major part of them (the whole Council being duly summoned) and to the said Mountstuart Elphinstone alone in certain cases, and under certain circumstances mentioned in the said Act passed in the thirty third year of the Reign of His Present Majesty, full Power and authority from time to time, to rule and govern all and every our FACTORIES and servants under the said Presidency, and all the soldiers and inhabitants of our said Town and Castle of Bombay, and elsewhere within the places aforesaid, to administer lawful Oaths as occasion shall require, and to do and perform all such other Acts and things and to use and exercise all such other Powers and authorities as the said President and Governor, and his Council, in their several and respective places where the said United Company have or shall have FACTORIES, or any places of Trade, are authorized to do; subject nevertheless to the superintending and controlling Power of the Governor General in Council of Fort William in Bengal in such cases where-

in he is authorized to have a superintending and controlling Power in and by any Act or Acts of Parliament now in force; and also subject and according to such instructions and directions as he the said Mountstuart Elphinstone our President and Governor and the Council aforesaid, shall from time to time receive under the hands of thirteen or more of the Court of Directors of the said United Company for the time being, and from such other persons as by the said Act of the thirty third year of the Reign of His Present Majesty are empowered to give orders to the said United Company's servants in India in certain cases, therein mentioned. Provided always, that these presents and the appointment hereby made are subject to such temporary and partial suspension, and in such manner as in the said Act of the thirty third year of the Reign of His Present Majesty is mentioned, when our Governor General of Fort William in Bengal for the time being shall find it expedient to visit the Presidency of Bombay, or any Province or Place thereto belonging.

AND WE the said United Company do hereby order and require all our Factors, Servants, Officers and Soldiers within the limits of the said Presidency, and all the People and inhabitants of our said Town and Castle of Bombay, and all other our Forts, Places, and Colonies within the said Presidency, to conform, submit, and yield due obedience unto the said Mountstuart Elphinstone, our President and Governor, and his Council accordingly; and we do hereby revoke, repeal, annul, and make void, every former Commission or Commissions, given and granted by us, and all other appointments whereby any Person or Persons was and were, or shall be constituted, or ordained, or hath, or have, or shall become, President, and Governor or of the Council of Bombay aforesaid, such revocation to take place from the time when the said Mountstuart Elphinstone shall take upon him the said office.

IN WITNESS whereof we the said United Company have caused Our common Seal to be affixed to these Presents this fifteenth day of November in the fifty fifth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of Our Lord One Thousand, Eight hundred and eighteen.

Signed by Order of the Court of Directors of the said United Company
(Signed) JOSEPH DART, Secretary.

East India House, London, the 2d January, 1819.

(A True Copy) JOSEPH DART, Secretary.

The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

To the Honorable MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE.

WE, the said United Company, reposing especial trust and confidence in you the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be our Governor and Commander in Chief of our Fort and Garrison of Bombay, and of all the Forces which are now, or hereafter shall be employed, for the service of us the said United Company within the said Fort and Garrison. And you are to the utmost of your skill and power to do and perform all such Offices and Services as appertain to the Post of Governor and Commander in Chief as aforesaid, and to hold the said Office unto and upon you, upon and from the 1st day of November 1819 or upon and from the death, resignation or coming away of the Right Honorable Sir Evan Nepean Bart., our present Governor and Commander in Chief at Bombay aforesaid, if either of those last mentioned events shall happen before the said 1st day of November 1819, and to continue in the exercise of the same during our pleasure; subject nevertheless to all such Rules, Orders, and Instructions, as have heretofore been given to the Governor and Commander in Chief of our Fort and Garrison, and are now in force, and also such other orders as you shall at any time hereafter receive in writing from Our Court of Directors, or under the hands of thirteen or more of them, or from the Governor in Council of Bombay; but subject to such removal, and 'recol' as is mentioned in an act made in the Thirty Third Year of the Reign of His Present Majesty, entitled an "Act for continuing in the East India Company for a further Term the possession of the British Territories in India, together with their exclusive Trade under certain limitations; for establishing further Regulations for the Government of the said Territories, and the better Administration of Justice within the same; for appropriating to certain uses, the Revenues and profits to the said company, and for making Provision for the good Order and Government of the Towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay" and we do hereby strictly require charge, and command all Commissioned officers, Non-Commissioned officers, Soldiers and others belonging to our military Forces and all the people and inhabitants employed, or residing in our said Fort and Garrison, to yield you as Governor and Commander in Chief as aforesaid due obedience accordingly.

GIVEN under our common Seal this fifteenth day of November in the 55th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen.

(L S) Signed by Order of the Court of Directors of the said Company,
(Signed) JOSEPH DART, Secretary.

East India House, London, the 2d January, 1819.

(A True Copy) JOSEPH DART, Secretary.

By Order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council,

J. FARISH, Secy of Govt.

Ceylon.—We have private letters from Colombo, giving us some interesting details, which we shall publish to-morrow. In the meantime we give the following Government Notifications as one of public interest from the Ceylon Gazette.

Colombo, Oct. 23.—Notice is here by given, that in order to disseminate more widely than has lately been done the salutary precaution of Vaccine Inoculation, to which if the Inhabitants in general had more punctually had recourse, the present afflicting visitation of Small Pox would not have so widely extended itself.—His Excellency The Governor has appointed Vaccinators to be stationed at different Places in this Town, Gravets and District to whom all Persons are directed to repair with their Families, Servants and Slaves, on the days which will be publicly notified in each Street, Division or Village, by the Sitting Magistrate of Colombo within the Town and Gravets, and by the Collectors for the remaining part of the District; to be vaccinated.—Such Persons are afterwards to appear at the same place on the 5th and 8th days after Vaccination to have it ascertained if the affection has taken place, and if it has will receive a Printed Certificate to that effect on the 8th day.

All Modiaris, Mohandirams and other Headmen, Constables and Police Vidans are to exert their utmost diligence in giving public notice of the days on which the People of each Street, Division or Village are to attend, and in urging their attendance;—or in default will incur the severe displeasure of Government.

As the means of precaution against catching Small Pox are placed at the reach of every one, it is the intention of Government to enact strict measures of restriction against such Persons as may hereafter be seized with Small Pox, to prevent their communicating it to others.

By his Excellency's Command,

Chief Secretary's Office, JOHN RODNEY, Chief Secy to Govt.
Colombo, Oct. 16, 1819.

Madras.—A private Letter from Madras furnishes the following paragraph of information, in addition to some more copious details for which we shall find room to-morrow.

The weather at Madras has been very mild, a very small quantity of rain has fallen compared with late seasons, about 4½ inches have fallen since the 15th October. The thermometer was at an average of 74° A. M. noon, and 4 P. M. 79½, 80½ and 80, except on the 15th, when it rose to 92½ at noon. I have received a letter from Quilon, mentioning that Coleman the Younger's "Iron Chest" had been performed with elaborate

Mr. Cleghorn of the Madras Bar, has been appointed Prothonotary and Register of the Supreme Court at Madras, in succession to the late Mr. Shaw.

The following paragraph is from the Madras Courier, received yesterday.

Madras, Nov. 9.—The Monsoon rains have fallen very copiously for some days past—throughout Saturday and the following night the weather was very boisterous—the rain fell in torrents, and the wind at times blew violently, from the North East quarter, so much so, that at one time another storm was apprehended—on the following morning however the wind shifted to the Southward and the weather moderated.—The Surf was very high and broke over the road on the North Beach.

His Excellency the Admiral has proceeded in the Minde to Bombay.

Chowringhee Theatricals.

"To hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature

"And show the very body of the time,

"Its form and pressure."

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Mr. Hazlitt in his Preface to the Work entitled *A View of the English Stage*, has the following passage:—"Though I do not repent what I have said in praise of certain actors, yet I wish I could retract what I have been obliged to say in reprobation of others. The victims of criticism, like the victims of the law, bear no good will to their executioners, and I confess I have often been tired of so thankless an office." A few pages further on, he adds, "There is one observation which has been made, and which is true, that public censure hurts actors in a pecuniary point of view; but it has been forgotten that public praise assists them in the same manner." So far Mr. Hazlitt, who is the most severe and bitter critic, yet at the same time one of the best and observant of those critics with whose Works I am acquainted. He is perhaps unrivalled in the Dramatic department, though I should not very readily agree with some of his doctrines; promulgated of late; more particularly on the English Poets. His observations (as above quoted) will not exactly apply here; but here or else where (as I once ventured to ask before) what sort of criticism is that which is confined to praise alone? It is worse than nothing; for, where merited, its profuse and unguarded distribution renders it of little value, and where it is not deserved it is injurious, by fostering errors which might have been corrected if pointed out, but which unkind lenity conceals.

But gentle reader, is there not such a thing as gentle criticism more especially when applied to gentle folks, and where I could not justly praise, or gently blame, I would not speak at all. I once ventured to do this and that lately, and I am not aware of its being ill received. I love the Stage and all that belongs to it, and if I ever have or were to speak harshly of any one belonging to it, 't would be with the feelings of a father who whips the child he loves.

"I must be cruel only to be kind."

I know how arduous a profession the Stage is, how many natural and acquired advantages are necessary to make a figure there; and tho' the pleasure arising from success in the undertaking is of the most gratifying nature, yet I also know that the want of success is attended with sensations still more mortifying to the self-love of the individual. The former gratifies our vanity in the highest degree, and the latter as keenly wounds it. How envied is the successful actor, thousands hanging on his words, the applause of thousands stunning his delighted ears until the very echo shall applaud again. Johnson says, "the death of Garrick eclipsed the gaiety of nations!" but reverse the picture.

"—like a poor Player,

Who struts and frets his hour upon the stage,

And then ——— is heard no more.

Some great and modest actor too, hesitated not to confess, that he would like, to see a dog wag his tail in approbation; what then must he have felt at a "circular discharge of blows from the pit coming full volly home." But is not this a picture of human life? does it not tell us that,

"—All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players,"

Or as Shakespear again has it, "the thread of our life is a mingled quirk, our virtues would be proud if our vices whipp'd them not, and our faults would despair, if they were not cherished by our virtues."

But "something too much of this," I am not a crusty critic, I had rather spy a beauty than a fault at any time, and where a host of beauties are conspicuous, dimmed only by the occasional gloom of a few faults, the former should be to me as a cup of the waters of Lethe and make the latter forgotten.

I was present on Friday evening at the performance of a very indifferent Play which was most admirably acted. An indifferent Play! what John Bull! Even so, the title is the best part of it, but as a whole it is, I think, the worst that Colman ever wrote. It is not consistent in its characters. The French critics are constantly complaining of our want of attention to the unities of time and place; but an inattention to unity of character is still more to be regretted. It is most evident in the character of Job Thornbury, and in that of Mary. The combination of deep feeling and intense passion with low and vulgar and unnecessary jokes is too bad. When Peregrine tells the distracted and heartbroken Thornbury that he will bring back his daughter, and rouses his paternal feelings to the utmost, the father concludes his anxious enquiries after the fate of his beloved Mary, by earnestly conjuring him not to deceive him, and then adds "you know what a bounce you told me when you first came into my shop when you were a boy." Again when his indignation at the sight of the villain who had undone his daughter cannot be restrained, but bursts forth thus at the sight of him "Keep your distance, I'm an old fellow but if my daughter's Seducer comes near me I'll beat him as flat as a stew pan." Oh! most lame and impotent conclusion; he might certainly have made stew pans in his time, but as he is represented as a superior sort of huzier, he might have left them quietly in the shop and not have pressed them so unsuitably into the service.

I could mention more instances of this sort; but the acting of the Brazier has made me forget them all; it was indeed a piece of acting, and if you did not see it Mr. Editor, upon my soul, I pity you. I do not wish to be extravagant in my expressions, but I really cannot conceive how it could have been acted better. There was no grandeur of passion to be expressed, no fine sounding speech which might assai the actor and strike on the heart of the audience like the swelling notes of some divine music; no adventitious assistance of this sort, it was all quiet, intense, profound feeling, the feeling of uncultivated low life, certainly the feeling of a man, but that man was a Brazier. It was given to the life; no exuberance of action; scarcely any at all; the part would not admit of it, all still and deep-heaving from the bottom of the soul. The silence of the house at several passages was the greatest applause that any actor could covet, and a species of applause not very often given in the Chowpatty Theatre where talking is generally the order of the night. Indeed, I am sometimes as much instructed by the good people around me as to what the actor is going to say or do, as if I really heard and saw the man himself, which former gratification they sometimes kindly prevent. "They are as good as a chorus." On Friday evening however, they did justice by their silence, to the excellent acting presented to them.

To be particular, (I love to be particular). The finest thing he did, was the finest in my mind, was after cruelly wounding the feelings of his poor faithful shopman (who had sprinkled the shop for two and twenty years) by undeserved suspicion and reproach, he puts out his hand to the old servant saying "John I beg your pardon" he did not merely say it, he acted it; it was the finest thing he did. Recollect his putting on

the waistcoat and ask yourself could it be finer "it's my child; she's undutiful, ungrateful, barbarous, but she's my child." I suspect none but a father could fully appreciate the feeling with which this action was given. I felt it, I am not a father.

His true and powerful sarcasms on the justice, "This Gentleman Justice," were capitally given "with good emphasis and discretion." One would really almost think he was a Justice himself, the words came twanging off so. He was admirably dressed too, as indeed he always is, and the only actor here who is always so. I remember his dress in *Sceer*, 'twas excellent and on Friday it was the thing itself; a respectable Tradesman.

But Lord bless us, "but one half-penny worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack;" nothing but praise, this will never do. No, no, we have a fault in store, and it is, no, not a fault exactly, but it might have been done better. Come! Genius of Haglitt! and champion me to the utterance! After, by concealing the names of the parties, he has drawn the Justice to acknowledge him entitled to redress; the Justice with willing eagerness takes up his pen and asks the name of the defendant. It should have been ushered in a voice of thunder startling the night's dull ear, "FRANCIS ROCHDALE," it should have overpowered by its sudden truth the hesitating and astonished Justice. It was pronounced too tamely, too surlily. How would Kean have said those two words, I have seen him do something like it in *Ononoko*. I should like to see this gentleman play sulky, in the *Road to Ruin*. I have never seen his Iago, which I am told, and can easily believe to be excellent, and the representative of Zanga in *Othello* and Miss Williams as *Desdemona*. Oh! 'tis consummation devoutly to be wished."

But, Miss Williams!—'tis time I come to her; but what shall I, what can I say?—What say you? or you? or you?—Was it not excellent did not the tear stand trembling in your eye, when she met her father, and exclaims "don't look kindly on me, my dear father, leave me;—I left you; but I was almost mad." The repenting or acting of the last words I shall never forget; it was equal to, but no, I hate comparisons I beg this lady's pardon for not having appreciated her talents sooner; but they were hid under a bushel. Why what would the people have? if that was not good acting, what is! those about me on the Boxes, thought so—I am sure I heard they did, I did not clap, I know it, but I looked, I listened, and I felt. When her father says "you worked this waistcoat for me, Mary," her reply "I know I did" was the most pathetic thing I ever remember to have seen; and in another scene, her meek repenting and resigned manner when she fears her father is angry with her and says "I hope it is not with me; but if it is, I have no reason to complain," was true and natural and beautiful, if any thing ever was fine, natural, or beautiful. Perhaps (and I say it under correction) she went from the extremes of passionate feeling, to cold indifferent speaking, too easily; but this was the author's fault, not her's by intermixing common place remarks with deep and overwhelming feeling, so that she talks as coolly about Rochdale being a generous man, &c. as if really she had not been injured by him; but this was no fault in the actress, and really I know of none, no not one.

I should like to see her in Shakespear, for there, the actor must stand or fall upon his own ground alone, he cannot (or his critic either) blame the author, and tho' his success must always be shared with Shakespear, yet if he fails, he falls from his own want of talent, and "then he falls like Lucifer never to rise again," ye Managers! you "thrice potent, grave and reverend signiors," let us see her in *Desdemona*, or what else you like, only let it be in Shakespear. She is worthy to play him.

But Dennis Brulgruddery must not be forgotten; his rich, mellow, clear voice, is music to our ears. If he had dressed the character as well as he acted it, there would have been nothing wanting to the master of the 'Red Cow.' I do not know exactly how it ought to have been dressed, and perhaps am wrong in this particular; but I should think a little more Jollily and fat; for tho the pigs starved, he did not, it seems; and his servant Dan seemed the best off, of the two, in point of good living. He is more cool, collected, and easy on the Stage, than any one there, and his bye-play is excellent. If I were acting with him, I should be jealous of the audience, I have always thought from the first time I saw this gentleman, that he was more calculated for Tragedy than Comedy, but however I have never seen him in the former. His features are highly expressive and his voice the best I ever heard, why not play Tragedy? When he is not smiling but looking rather gravely, I could almost swear he could not smile, it is so grave, something like Kean's, at least it once struck me so. It is a face for Tragedy, and I love Tragedy, I get tired and sleepy and my knees ache at Comedy; there is not stimulus enough, the one is rice pudding and the other curry; and curry agrees with me best.

Tom Shuffleton and Lady Caroline might have been acted better. One word more; there is a little fellow that played the Waiter, what a promising young fellow it is! I remember him in the *Millar* and his Men; I should like to see him brought forward a little; he would not disgrace his part, I'll answer for it.

Your's Truly,

ZENO.

I did not see Mrs. Cooke in the Farce of the *Spoiled Child*, as I left the Theatre after the Play; but I understand she played it as well as ever and that is praise enough. It is the best character I have seen her in. With what boyish delight she ran after the marbles and used her horsewhip with such glee!!

Letter from Poona.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

The recent discussions on Brevet Rank in your Journal, which finds its way regularly even into this remote quarter, have excited much interest and attention among Military Men of the Company's service, and among those enlightened Readers of other classes, who take a just pride in considering every English Gentleman warranted to discuss, and privileged to exercise his judgment, or testify an interest, on Questions relating to the Policy and Institutions of his Country, as compared with those of other States. Of this nature is the Dispute on the subject of OCCASIONAL BREVETS FOR PARTICULAR SERVICES, and it is gratifying to a bird of passage as I may call myself, in so far at least as I am placed beyond the reach of personal concern in the matter at issue, to witness the liberal but animated Debates to which this important Question gives rise at almost every table in the Deccan, where I have been a guest.

In the course of these conversations, it has occurred to me to hear some arguments pressed home on the Opponents of the Brevet for special service, which have been either altogether overlooked by the Disputants on your side of India, or if noticed, have been but lightly touched, without sufficient advertence to the strength with which they bear, or the close analogy they hold out, in respect to the matter at issue between the Champions of the Old and New School, as they call themselves. One case, in particular, of this last description, it has more than once fallen to my lot to urge in favor of "BREVET BY MERIT," with some force, because, as an OLD ROYAL ARTILLERYMAN, I have been enabled to speak to it from personal knowledge. If the same liberality that I have praised in the Company's Officers in the Deccan, prevails among those of the Metropolitan Establishment in Bengal, they will not be offended at this intrusion into their Debates, of one who is personally no stranger to their merits and services, although he has no individual connection with, or interest in the fate of the "BREVET QUESTION." Presuming on their indulgence, I take leave to draw the attention of the combatants to some of the Cases in point to which I have alluded.

Hitherto, Mr. Editor, it must appear to an impartial observer, that although the numerical majority of writers—at least of signatures—in your widely-circulated Journal, has been marshalled in opposition to the introduction of BREVET FOR SERVICES; the weight of argument has been strongly in favor of that practice. Its opponents do not deny—or they deny so feebly as in fact to admit,—that the principle or theory of this species of Promotion is favorable to Military emulation and enterprise;—that it is a more appropriate sort of reward than Staff Appointments, for which a brave man may be very unfit—which remove him from the sphere of his usefulness, or which turn him over to money getting employments in the Civil Departments of the Army. They allow, that the recompense of Brevet Rank, once made a general rule, would be as equally attainable by every individual, as the existing rewards of the Bath or of the Staff—that the rigorous course of Seniority Promotion, now that the Company's Army can scarcely hope for further aid from the adventitious source of augmentations, is likely to become tardy even to a degree never yet experienced;—that the system of remedying—stagnation, rousing languor, and rewarding desert by occasional and special promotions, is strikingly vindicated by the practice of every regular Military Service in the world, except that of the East India Company. To all this that is avowedly good in itself, what objections have been opposed? None which I at least have been able to discover, except the argument derived from probable abuse. That is, eat not, lest ye take surfeit! Drink not, lest ye get drunk! Go not to play or ball, lest ye never go to Church! Learn not to read, lest ye be corrupted by bad Books! Write not, lest ye be tempted to scribble nonsense, or to propose innovations and improvements, and so disturb the slumbers of your infallible Seniors, by writing in the Calcutta Journal!! To be serious, their argument amounts to this, Brevets for special services cannot be guarded against great abuse by any strictness of provision.—Parliamentary and petticoat interest will dispense them, instead of merit, however solemnly and publicly the recommendation be given, by Commanders and Governments here in the face of the Army and a Free Press, and sanctioned by Directors and the Crown at home, acting under the scrutinizing eyes of Proprietors and of the Opposition in Parliament.—Things have gone on very excellently well, heretofore without these new fangled systems.—THEREFORE, let us hear no more of BREVET BY MERIT!

Such a line of argument Mr. Editor, may please some men, but whether it will prevail with the dispassionate and uninterested, I must take leave to question. For myself, I confess it satisfies me not; it contains, however, a powerful appeal to right and generous feelings, in one particular; and that at least merits such serious and sober confutation, as will set the matter on its just footing, and satisfy thinking but timid men, that the proposed Plan will not put to unfair hazard, the interests of a large and deserving body of British Officers.

I admit then fully, that a special protection is imperiously required for the general interests of the Gentlemen serving in the Company's Armies. The India Service must be grounded on the basis of Seniority Rise,—because local experience and acquaintance with the Native dialects and

customs are indispensable in an Army composed almost wholly of conquered Foreigners, differing from us, in religion, language, manners, opinions and laws, as in complexion and origin. We govern them in virtue of the indefeasible superiority of mind over matter. Thus a laborious training, or apprenticeship, or education if you will, is necessary to our Indian military machine, and this can only be ensured by a Seniority System to a certain point; that is, by a certain number of years positive service as a qualification for certain trusts. Now it is evident that to this training, no man will subject himself who has the means at his command of raising himself to an equal or higher station without submitting to the painful condition. Hence the Indian Army has always been officered by the Sons of the middling classes of the English Gentry; the noble, the opulent, the highly connected, the men of interest,—invariably and necessarily shun such a Service, and seek Fame and Promotion in the more congenial sphere of the Royal Army, where rank, fortune and connexions are available to their rise. The fate of the poor and friendless Soldier of Fortune in the *Line Branches* of the King's Army, is often sufficiently hard to bear, even with its advantages of being more favored and brilliant service, and of the Officer's spending much of his time in the happy climate of his own country, among his family and friends. But to such a man, if condemned to 30 or 40 years of remote unhealthy colonial duty, life would be intolerable, if certainty of promotion, however slow its march, were not held out as the primary condition of the Service. But for this, the Company's Army would be rejected for his Son, by every Father of sense or education; and its Subaltern Ranks at least, would inevitably fall to be occupied by an inferior class, (as in our African corps) raised probably from the ranks; brave, perhaps sober and steady; but as a class unfit to be trusted with those commands that in India devolve on Officers of low rank, and that under the present system of officering, your Army is filled with a degree of talent and efficiency, truly astonishing.

Thus far then I go with my opponents. I admit the necessity of Seniority-Rise, as a General Rule and primary condition of the Indian Service. I admit the necessity of protecting the distant and friendless Officer from having any one step of his Promotion—from his Esigency to his Colonelcy—ravished from him by a rich or powerful competitor who shall employ in pushing his interest at the Horse Guards, St. Stephen's or Leadenhall Street, that time which the other devotes to the painful and toilsome avocations of his duty in India. But having cheerfully granted all this, I expect that in return for this ample protection to the individual, it will be allowed, that THE STATE has an undoubted claim to a ready and cheerful acquiescence in any measures which have a tendency to alleviate the Public Evils which spring from this very tenderness for the interests of its Servants. Surely no impartial Man at this day will deny as an abstract proposition, that a Service of rigid Seniority-Rise is the best System for the individual, is the worst possible for the State? Instances and names have been indeed ostentatiously quoted to prove how much the Indian Army has done under its Seniority disadvantages; but these in truth prove nothing. They are at best but splendid exceptions, confirmative of the truth of the general rule. We who take a different view of the question, are restrained by obvious motives from adducing in reply our instances and names to prove the disadvantages of having Battalions commanded by men of 50, and Brigades by Major Generals of 60 years old; yet we may say, and truly, that the Indian Army in its earlier stages, was not a Seniority-Service, and that perpetual augmentations and the alleviations of the separate Regimental, Departmental, and distinct Presidency Lists, have till now kept off the extreme evils of a strict Seniority-Rise. We may ask too, how the Duke of Wellington would have got thro' his Seven Years' War, with no better or more active materials than a Seniority Army! But to pass over particular instances, I would ask whether the proposed Plan of Special Brevets guarded by solemnity and publicity against abuse, does not reconcile the just rights of the State with the protection due to individuals? It is a distinctly understood feature of the proposed System, that the Regimental rise of the Cadet to his Colonelcy and off-reckonings is in no way to be disturbed by the accidental Brevet steps gained by the few who will ever reach those honors. To these the only advantage, besides the credit and reputation acquired, will be that of becoming General Officers or Brigadiers a few years sooner. Now as every Officer is aware that employment on the Staff in those Ranks has been distinctly declared by the Court of Directors to be one of selection and not of right or claim, what injury is done to the Army? The older General Officers will scarcely venture to complain openly that the list of competitors for the Staff is increased; for that would be admitting that they are conscious of incapacity and afraid of competition: in other words—that they prefer walking over the course, to trying their powers against rival candidates, an admission sufficiently humiliating to him who makes it. But who will deny on the other hand the *unmixed benefit derived by the State* from any rule which like this, enlarges the field of choice, and swells the list from which the Government may more freely select the men to whose energy and talents it commits the fortunes of its Armies in the day of battle,—the fates of millions?

But it is said this Plan of Brevets, however, excellent and suitable to "the King's Service," where a man may be superseded in a hundred different ways, a hundred times, is incompatible with the seniority system of the Company's Army where no man can be superseded. In this assertion there are several fundamental errors. To begin with the last, an Officer

may be superseded in a variety of modes in the Company's Army suppose him to belong to the Bengal Infantry; he may be passed over by Juniors in the Artillery, Engineers and Cavalry, of his own Establishment; by Juniors in the 4 branches at Madras; in the 4 at Bombay; nay, even by a Junior of his own Bengal Infantry branch; who in virtue of the Regimental System gets the Line Majority, as you call it, before him. He may, to boot, be passed over by King's Officers of every arm serving in the same army or Garrison with himself. Here are 16 distinct modes of supercession, 12 of them in the Company's own Service! and each susceptible of multiplication by the numbers of Juniors whom we may suppose finally to pass the unfortunate Bengal Infantry Captain, setting down for nothing, the many who may lead him an agonizing dance in his own branch even—up and down—sometimes above him, sometimes below—in the several grades of Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign, until at last he is relieved from the horrors of expected supercession by being fixed in his Line Majority. Are we then to be told, that the Company's Officers are not almost as much exposed to supercession as the Line Officers of the King's Army? Are we to be told, that men liable every day to such fluctuations,—to be pushed up or tossed down by blind chance, on the ladder of Promotion without complaining, will consider it an INTOLERABLE GRIEVANCE if one more, if a SEVENTEENTH mode or chance of supercession be added to the SIXTEEN, to which they are already subject? Who will believe those Writers, who paint their comrades in such black colors, and would have us understand, that although the Company's Officers may endure being superseded by any number of blockheads whom the sport of chance may put over their heads, they will become infuriated with ENVY, JEALOUSY, and all sorts of baneful passions, if even a single man shall be allowed to supersede them in virtue of bravery, talents, or those high qualifications, which are to be rewarded by conferring increased Rank, and thus augmenting the sphere of the individual's utility?

The consideration of this *calumny*, as I may call it, against a brave and generous body, leads me back, Mr. Editor, to the point from which I have digressed, and I will now solicit your attention to the case I described to be especially analogous to the Company's Army, as affected by the Question of OCCASIONAL BREVETS. When the Opponents of that plan speak of it, as being well-suited only to an Army constituted like "*the King's*," they seem not to be aware, that certain branches of the Royal Army are constituted on a model of Seniority far more strict than the Company's Service, because the principle is not broken in upon in practice, by any division into distinct lists, like your System of *Regimental-Rise*. The branches of which I speak are the Royal Artillery, Engineers, and Marines. A laborious and complete scientific education, for 2 or 3 years, is required to qualify a man for a commission in the two first mentioned of those corps, but as there is no *royal-road to mathematics*, and as public, notorious proficiency is an indispensable qualification to getting a commission, youths of fortune and rank naturally prefer entering the LINE, where their interest and money can avail them, and no previous study or qualification is required. The Ordnance corps are therefore officered like the Company's Troops, entirely by the middling classes of our gentry, and younger sons of poor but respectable families. It was necessary that the promotion of Officers of this description should be protected against the intrusion of the more fortunate but less educated. Hence the Rule of Seniority-Rise was justly established; why the same Rule obtained in the Royal Marines it is not so easy to say; but no doubt it originated in that Service being of an amphibious and little brilliant nature, requiring *timor, bravery*, that is, all the qualifications of a Soldier except his military science and GENERALSHIP; all those of a Sailor, save his mathematics, tactics, and ADMIRALSHIP; such a Service held out little inducement to any but helpless Soldiers of Fortune; yet lest it might have been abused as a *stepping stone* by the rich and powerful, the Seniority-System was established to protect those friendless Officers.

There were, Mr. Editor, before the Peace reductions, about 1000 or 1100 Officers of ROYAL ARTILLERY, including Gentlemen Cadets: more than 250 of ROYAL ENGINEERS; and I believe little short of 1500 Officers of ROYAL MARINES; forming an aggregate of about 2800 who rise by the most rigid Seniority imaginable, in their corps. This number I believe equals the aggregate of all the Company's Armies, and they are at least not less meritorious as a body,—not less deserving of protection from their Sovereign and the nation, than are the Company's Officers from their immediate Employers. It is evident too, that they stand in need of that protection fully as much as the Indian Officers, or even more, because they excite jealousy by exemption from the control of the Line Commander in Chief, and because they are placed in perpetual contact and collision with the more powerful, epulent and favoured Officers of the Line, many of whom would have no objection to command a Battalion of Artillery, or Division of Marines, altho' they might look down on the drudgery of a Cadets training, or the "*Boardship jag*," of a wretched second Lieutenant.

Into these several corps, the System of occasional Brevets has of late years been very copiously introduced. How are we to account for the strange difference of feeling on this subject between two such bodies of men as the corps in question, and the Army of the Company, composed as they are of almost precisely the same materials, and placed in situations, with reference to other branches, almost exactly corresponding? In India the introduction of Brevet Reward, is viewed with jealousy, fear, and hatred, almost amounting to *renewal*, by the old Officers who person-

ally can neither be injured nor benefited by it, while by the younger in Bengal at least incredible as it seems, the measure is looked on at least with coldness! In the Ordnance and Marine Services of England, on the other hand, the Regulation was hailed with acclamations and joy by all ranks, and if a few Veterans, did indulge in envious or splenetic feelings at a plan which might permit younger, more active, or more able men to "tread on their kibes"—which enabled talents to escape from the ruinous restraint and hopeless mediocrity invariably attendant on a System of Seniority, they had at least the grace and the good sense to disguise their jealousies, and to affect a participation in the general feeling that these particular branches of the National Force were degraded below their brethren of the Line, unless they also were comprehended in the general System of "BREVET BY MERIT."

Man is the creature of circumstances; and whatever a few individual Writers may tell us, I do not doubt but that in reality, the Proposed Brevet System will have the suffrages of the greater and better part of the Company's Army, since that System is unequivocally admired by an equally numerous body of men, who are placed in circumstances quite analogous. Assuredly the Sovereign will never consent to withhold from his own Officers serving in India, the same Rewards of Promotion which have been so beneficially and liberally bestowed on their bravery on the continent, and in the Western Hemisphere. If a King's and a Company's Captain for instance, are found fighting side by side in the same action, is the one not equally deserving of reward and of the same National Reward as the other? Can it be possible that his own comrades of his own Service shall endeavour to prevent his obtaining that reward? and that, in such a case for instance as that of James Grant at Mahidpore, they would unmovedly and complacently see a Senior Captain of their own superseded by two deserving Juniors of the King's Troops, rather than have a Regulation established, by which one Company's Officer becomes liable to be passed in the honorable race of distinction, by another of the same Service? I will not for a moment believe that those who say such things of the Indian Officers, are warranted in their calumnious representations of their Brother Officer's feelings; at least I know that such are not the sentiments of the noble-minded and generous men with whom circumstances have led me to associate of late in this Quarter of our Indian Empire.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant,

Candeish, Oct. 25, 1819.

AN OLD ROYAL ARTILLERY MAN.

Military Fund.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

After reading with great attention the Reply with which my poor thoughts on the MILITARY FUND have been honored by Lieut. McNaghten, I lament that my intellect is so obtuse or my "spirit so unyielding," as not to perceive that any of my arguments have been confuted. The facts on which they were built, he has prudently forbore to controvert. His paper, however, exhibits fresh proofs of the rapidity with which he forms his judgment by a glance at totals, and a disregard of all the particulars or circumstances which may essentially alter the nature of two cases, similar in their general features: there is also a free use of the kind of syllogism, which is called by Logicians a *non sequitur*. But it may be thought mere vexation or jealousy in me to speak thus of a Writer, who declares of my unhappy Letter "that the arguments are built on so weak a foundation, and the conclusions are so unauthorised by the premises, that the least degree of examination cannot fail to show their fallacy." Let us look in to particulars a little, and see if this sentence might not serve as a motto for his own performance. With this examination I shall drop the subject, and leave the MILITARY FUND to die a natural death.

He contrasts with great complacency the Pension which his proposed Fund offers to a Widow, obtained by the husband's small subscription, with my observation on the portion which an Officer could secure for his Widow and Children, from the Laudable Society. The subscription for a share of this, is equal to 20 rupees a month, while his Pension of £ 125 a year, to a Lieutenant's Widow is to be obtained by a subscription of only 12 rupees. But he entirely overlooks the radical difference that the one is only a Life Annuity, the other conveys the property in a share. The amount of this is (as he states) uncertain, precisely because the utmost benefit which may result when the accounts are closed, is shared among those entitled to it, and this cannot be ascertained before hand. In the third Laudable Society one share turned out equal to 14,012 rupees, producing (at 6 per cent.) an income of £ 105 per annum to a Widow, who had also the whole 14,000 rupees to leave to her Children at her own death. It is this circumstance of it's yielding a portion, and not an Annuity which makes many married Officers subscribe to it in preference to the Widow's Fund, or to any Annuity Fund. Others, from similar causes, take a share in it, besides securing to their Widow the Pension fixed for their rank by the Widow's Fund. The Union Society requires a less monthly subscription for one share, not because it is a cheaper Fund, as Lieut. McNaghten seems to imagine, but because its shares are smaller, being worth about 3000 rupees each.

My assertion respecting the state of the Orphan Fund is founded upon the same printed accounts, which showed Lieutenant McNaghten "a large overplus after all deductions." To be sure if a person (to take the last published accounts I have seen, 1817, as an example,) will look at the balance line only, he will see that it exceeds Five Lacs of Rupees. But if he will also read the "particulars of the balance" below, he will see, that it is made up of *dead stock*, and of the capital in Company's paper which form no part of their income. The interest of the capital does, and is entered accordingly in its place. After allowing for the expenses in England for the whole year, of the Orphans who are now there the total expenditure will be found to exceed the total income by about 4600 Rupees. This was what I stated. The extraordinary blunder of supposing that the small subscriptions of the Officers supported the Lower as well as the Upper School, and of reasoning on that supposition, is tacitly passed over. He is equally silent on the subject of another blunder, his ignorance that this despised Orphan School, supported *legitimate* as well as illegitimate Children.

If it is true that the representative Managers from the different great Stations are not chosen by them, the General Management must in every instance have been imposed on them by the Station Committees, which is a very unlikely thing. In two or three instances where I have had an opportunity of knowing the fact, the election was made regularly. If indeed, the Army feel no interest and no concern in the Management of this Institution, which provides an Asylum for their Orphans, educates them, and portions them, I should blush for *The Army*. But I trust and believe that this is another of this Writer's general assumptions drawn from limited experience. The idea that the Managers would publish Regulations, as sanctioned by the Army, which a majority of the Army had not confirmed, is almost too absurd to be noticed. The facts, however, that the Regulations were sanctioned by the votes of the Army, and that the Representative Managers are chosen by the stations they represent, may be easily ascertained, and ought I think to be noticed by the Officers of the General Management. They have brought the Fund too little before the Public.

Lieutenant McNaghten considers the number of *Writers* in support of the plan as *prima facie* evidence of its being supported here by a number at least equal to those who oppose it. From my longer experience in Calcutta, I have learnt that there are very many Officers here who are enquiring and reflecting men, but not given to writing in the Journals, and the Papers contain proof that there are also a few Officers who write, but who are not given to thinking or enquiry.

He lays great stress upon his own acquaintance being five to one in favour of his Fund. He should recollect that in a case like this, where he is the avowed Author, and an enthusiast in his own plans, his acquaintance will be shy of offering their *real* opinions. All who have declined taking any part in the Public Meeting, and all who tell him that "really they have not considered the subject," should be struck off his acquiescing majority. Without even going "so high as Barrackpore" I do think that I may know the general opinion at the principal Stations of the Army on this subject from the Letters of esteemed and tried friends, whose judgment and accuracy I can depend on, and who have no motive of delicacy for concealing their opinions from me. The subject has been brought fully before the Public, and private applications have not been wanting; what is the result? How many "Officers of the first Rank and Situation" have agreed to be *DIRECTORS* of the Fund or to attend the *PUBLIC MEETING*? How many Regiments and Battalions have sent in their *adhesion* to the *Printer of the Mirror* after reading the Pamphlet? unless there has been really a considerable show of hands I must still consider it premature to apply for a poll by means of Circulars from the Adjutant General's Office.

I observed that those married Officers who had subscribed to the Widow's Fund already, were not likely to forego their claims upon it nor very able to subscribe to this besides. Therefore they (and this class included most married Officers,) could not be expected to support the plan. He mistakes this for a remark, that married Officers who refuse now to subscribe to the Widow's Fund cannot be expected to subscribe to the Military; and he confutes it at once by an assertion, that they would, because it would give higher Pensions. That it promises this we know, that it could give them is the very point on which we differ, and I maintained that "a little examination would show that its funds could not meet the expenses it would have to defray." He laments that I did not enter into this examination. It is apity he did not observe that I had written three or four paragraphs to show that there were entire and numerous classes in the Army who would be very unlikely to subscribe. These were,—1. All who merely looked to securing a provision for the Orphans they might leave—2. All who already subscribe to the Widows Fund—3. All Officers who had saved three thousand Rupees or upwards. The reasons why each of these classes were not likely to subscribe I stated at length.

These arguments ought to have weighed the more with Lt. McNaghten, because he attaches a degree of importance to having a great number

* "The best method of collecting votes and opinions would be for Corps and Departments to transmit their votes collectively to the Office at which this Letter will be printed; and when these accumulate they can be published in the Gazette, for the general information of the Army." Lt. McNaghten's Letter to the Army.

of Subscribers, which is truly ludicrous. On this head he betrays considerable ignorance of the subject on which he is so eager to be a Legislator. He gives it as his oracular opinion, that the Widows Fund must necessarily be on a low scale with regard to Pensions, and ever will be, unless every Officer in the Army gets married and subscribes to it. He again observes, that their Pensions need not have been reduced if the number of Subscribers had just at that juncture been doubled. Triumphant in this secret for renovating the vigour of a Fund, he hints at the support it would receive "if 200 additional married Subscribers lent their aid to it." He absolutely does not see, that unless these two hundred were *Stralburgs* they would bring their proportionate number of Widows upon the Fund, which would therefore be none the richer for their accession. A Fund of this sort is not the more flourishing (as he supposes) "the greater it's number of Subscribers;" but in proportion as the contributors bear a greater ratio to the Pensioners.

The difference between the Madras Fund as it exists, and Lieutenant McNaghten's more benevolent and extensive plan which includes Eurasian Widows and illegitimate Children, is so important in point of expense, that no conclusions can be drawn from the one to show the stability of the other scheme. He at first candidly admitted his inability for the labour of calculation; and this assertion is fully borne out by many passages in his Letters. In this last he shows a notable instance in his ideas of the effects of a mixed Fund for all objects. The project of a separate Fund to defray the expenses of a furlough to sick Officers, to be supported by those who might wish to insure for this object, he terms "impracticable and even puerile." Be it so, I will not dispute the merits of this, the only part of his plan which is new in Bengal. But it is a fact, that the Widow's Fund was formerly obliged to reduce its pensions to the present rates: it is a fact that the Orphan Fund has no surplus income; and yet only mix them up together, and add an insurance for Officers in the event of Sick Furlough; (the scheme that is by itself declared to be impracticable,) when lo! you will see an AMALGAM that is capable of pensioning all your Orphans, and all your Widows much more liberally than before besides assisting all your Sick Officers with passage money. Swift remarked, that in the arithmetic of the Customs, two and two do not always make four. In this equation of Funds, two and two seem to make five. I might retort upon such passages as these, his remark that "the term reasoning cannot with any justice be applied to his production," or if I wished to describe it in more elegant terms I might borrow the language of a celebrated orator. "Error is in its nature flippant and compendious; it hops with airy and fastidious levity over proofs and arguments, and perches upon assertion which it calls conclusion."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A STAFF OFFICER.

Nov. 29, 1819.

Colonel Monson's Retreat.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I shall feel extremely obliged to your Correspondent MIRZA, if he will give the Public, through the medium of your Journal, a full and accurate account of the gallant exploit, he records as having been performed by Captain Gardner, near Sheregurh, not forgetting to insert the dates, and also what became of the 11 guns captured, and the 1900 of Holcar's Regular Infantry, taken Prisoners in that affair.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"AN OFFICER,"

Who served under Col. Monson during his unfortunate Retreat.

Calcutta, Nov. 26, 1819.

Notice.

The Committee of Management for the Entertainment to be given to Lady Hastings, at the Town-Hall, on the 7th of December, beg to inform the Public, that, in consequence of the short period allowed them to complete the arrangements, they have been prevented circulating the Admission Tickets to the Individuals of the Families intended to be invited; and they earnestly request that such Gentlemen as may have received their Invitations, will send for the number of Admission Tickets required for themselves and the Members of their Families, to Messrs. Greenway and Co's. Library, where they have been deposited.

Administrations to Estates.

Thomas Temple Blackburn, Esq. of the Civil Service—Thomas Bracken, Esq. Executor.

George Georgeson, late Commander of the ship Catherine—D. Heming, Esq.

George Woodward, late of Calcutta, Mariner—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Richard Chase, Esq. of the Civil Service—Thomas Bracken, Esq.

Richard Chase, Esq. of the Civil Service—Baboo Cossiant Bysack, of Calcutta, a Bond Creditor.

William Renzel, Esq. late of Fattergurh—Mrs. Melicent Renzel, the Widow,

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGES.

At Saint John's Cathedral, on the 29th instant, by the Rev. Mr. J. Parsons, Captain H. A. T. Hervey, of the 7th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry and Barrack Master N. D. G. to Harriet Ann, youngest daughter of William Barnfield, Esq. of Pentonville.

At Bombay, on the 31st ultimo, by the Rev. Mr. N. Wade, J. Morion, Esq. of the East Indian Naval Service, to the Hon'ble Eliza Bland Erskine, eldest daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel Smith, and widow of the Honorable Lieutenant Colonel Erskine.

BIRTHS.

On the 28th instant, the Lady of Thomas Learmonth, Esq. of a Son.

On the 28th instant, Mrs. Victory D'Cruxe, of a Son and Heir.

On the 26th instant, the Lady of W. Richardson, Esq. of a Son.

At the Presidency, on the 26th instant, Mrs. J. C. Adels, of a Son.

On the 21st instant, at the house of J. Rondo, Esq. the Lady of Ebenezer Thompson, Esq. of a Daughter.

At Dum-Dum, on the 21st instant, the lady of Captain Parlyb, of the Artillery, of a Son.

At Chuprah, on the 20th instant, the Lady of James Wemyss, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

At Gornuckpore, on the 11th instant, the Lady of M. Ainslie, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

At Fort St. George, on the 3d instant, the Lady of Colonel Mollie, of a Daughter.

At Colaba, on the 2d instant, the Lady of Major Molesworth, H. M. 47th Regiment, of a Daughter.

At Bombay, on the 2d instant, the Lady of John Best, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

At Poona, on the 27th ultimo, the Lady of Major Sutherland, of a Son.

At Poona, on the 27th ultimo, the Lady of Lieutenant Colonel Hessian, of the Artillery.

At Hundy Lodge, Bombay, the Lady of Dongal Christie, Esq. of a Son.

DEATHS.

On the 25th instant, on board the ship *Jullana*, Captain Kidd, off town, where he had gone for the benefit of his health, after a severe illness of 20 days, which he bore with the utmost fortitude, Mr. Joseph Greenway, aged 23, leaving a wife and five children, together with a large circle of friends, sincerely attached to him (for his mild and unassuming disposition,) to lament his untimely loss.

On the 25th instant, Captain Robert Newlove Harem, of the Country Service, aged 27 years.

On the 25th instant, Mr. Peter Frederick Pasmore, aged 25 years. 6 months, and 6 days.

On the 24th instant, Master William Henry McCann, aged 5 years.

At Deegah, near Dinapore, on the 5th instant, after a severe illness of two months, Thomas Edwards, the only son of T. Edwards, Esq. at the early age of 15 years.

At Secundrabad, on the 27th ultimo, after a short but severe illness, prematurely cut off, and deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, Arthur Connell, Esq. Staff Surgeon at that Station, a man of honor, ability, and science. He retained his mental faculties to the last, and was as collected and composed at the hour of his death as at any period of his existence. He was interred on the following day with those honors due to his situation.

At Bombay, on the 29th ultimo, at 6 o'clock in the morning, at her residence at Byculla, Mrs. Rose Nesbitt, at the advanced age of 75 years, after a long and tedious indisposition, during which she received the unwearied attention of a most affectionate Daughter, and that of a numerous circle of relations and friends, who attended the bed of sickness with the most anxious solicitude for her recovery. Mrs. Nesbitt was the widow of the late Andrew Nesbitt, Esq. the senior officer of Marine, at the Presidency; a Gentleman whose character and conduct through life, are warmly cherished in the memory of those few, who now survive to appreciate the worth of the Man, and will be considered by every one who enters that Service, a proud example to follow and imitate. Mrs. Nesbitt was one of the oldest and most respectable Inhabitants of this Island. Her charities fell like the dew from Heaven, on all indiscriminately, and extended from one end of our Island to the other without any ostentation in the exercise of that virtue, and the high respect which was paid at the last and solemn moment of interment, by the many that lamented her loss, and followed her to her grave, is the best and proudest tribute that could be paid to the memory of so beneficent and so useful a member of society.

In Sir John Malcolm's Camp, at Mhow, on the 18th ultimo, W. C. Mack, Esq. Assistant Surgeon, 1st Battalion 8th Regiment, Bombay Native Infantry.

At Mazagon, on the 26th ultimo, Mr. James Anderson, aged 89 years.

At Malligaum, on the 26th ultimo, Mrs. Isabella Cantrill, wife of Mr. Conductor Joseph Cantrill of that Station.

At Tranquebar, on the 20th ultimo, William Macleod, Esq. Deputy Commissary of Munsters to the King's Troops. He commanded a Company of H. M. 23d Regiment at the Siege of Seringapatam, where he received a wound by a musket ball which could not be extracted, and from the effects of which he occasionally suffered severely. He lived universally respected and esteemed, his death is sincerely regretted by his numerous friends and deeply lamented by his afflicted Widow.

At Penang, on the 4th September last, where he had gone for the benefit of his health, John Shaw, Esq. late Register of the Supreme Court, as a public man he was highly respected; and in private life his amiable and unassuming manners assured to him the sincere regard and esteem of all those who were connected with him by the ties of friendship.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

(None)

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Nov. 25	Barton	British	C. J. Goldsmith	London
29	Sattel de Marco	Port.	A. F. Rodrigues	Rio de Janeiro
29	Milish	British	W. Becher	England

BOMBAY ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Oct. 23	Shaw Byramgore	British	John Kiddle	China	—
28	Swallow	British	John Nicholson	London	—
30	Sarah	British	James Norton	Ile of France	—
Nov. 3	Enterprise	Port.	Peter Bayros	Columbo	Oct. 13

BOMBAY DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Oct. 23	Gertruyda	British	C. Kail	Malabar Coast
23	Asia Felix	British	M. Bradshaw	Calcutta
30	Ann	British	Thomas Thatcher	Persn. Gulph
30	Jemima	British	M. Danby	Persn. Gulph
30	Hannah	British	J. L. Heathorn	Persn. Gulph
30	Pascon	British	Sammel Ashmore	Persn. Gulph
30	Glenelg	British	John Gover	Persn. Gulph
30	Bombay Castle	British	Charles Hutchison	Persn. Gulph
30	Orpheus	British	Henry Milne	Persn. Gulph
30	Jessy	British	Alex. Landale	Persn. Gulph
31	Hamoody	Arab	Abbooker	Bussorah
Nov. 1	Albinia	British	Thomas Lynn	London
1	Diana	British	Chas. Williams	Persn. Gulph
3	Curlew	British	Wm. Walpole, Esq.	Persn. Gulph
3	Liverpool	British	F. A. Collier, Esq.	Persn. Gulph
3	Cornwall	British	Wm. Richardson	Persn. Gulph
3	Carron	British	H. R. Weddell	Persn. Gulph
3	Angelica	British	Thos. Crawford	Persn. Gulph
3	Faiz Rahimany	British	M. Boles	Persn. Gulph
3	Ernasd	British	Lieut. D. Jones	Persn. Gulph
3	Aurora	British	Lt. C. J. Maillard	Persn. Gulph

Passengers.

Per Sarah, for Bombay.

Honorable Mrs. Erskine; Dr. Conwell and Lady; Miss Martin; Mr. George Fehwick; Mr. Blood.

Per Albinia, from Bombay to London.

The Right Honorable Sir Evan Nepean, Bart.; the Rev. Charles Mault and Mrs. Mault, to Travancore; Lieut. S. Hemming.

Nautical and Commercial.

The Shaw Byramgore, Captain John Kiddle, arrived at Bombay on the 28th of October, from China and Batavia. Her Commander has favoured the Editor of the Courier with the following intelligence. She left Macao and the pilot on the 11th of July: the only ships left in the port were, the Hastings, Captain Proudfoot; Syren, Captain MacDonald; another ship about to load for Suez; brig Mentor; Java, American, Captain Broughton, of Marblehead, last from Manila, where she could not procure a cargo of sugar, it being as high as 8 dols. 3 reals the peul, and very scarce; two free-traders were then waiting for sugar.

The Shaw Byramgore had not 12 hours moonson during the voyage, and was 29 days beating out of the China Seas with S. and S. E. winds, and strong Northerly current.

The cotton market at China is depressed: nominal price at 11 taels 7 mace for Bombay. Bengal opium abundant, and dull of sale at 950 to 1000 dollars. The silk crop was indifferent, and prices high, owing to a great demand by the Americans.

The port charges at Batavia are exorbitantly high, viz. $\frac{1}{2}$ rupee per ton register, and exacted even if the ship only requires refreshments. An expedition had left Batavia, consisting of 1500 Europeans, against the Sultan of Palambang; report says he was prepared for them. News reached Batavia on the 10th September of a late insurrection at Macassar, in which the Batavian government allow they have lost 4 officers and 7 men in one affray with the Malays; but it was supposed their loss had been more considerable, and that they would have been driven from the settlement, had not a Malay chief held out for the Dutch government.

The Bombay Merchant, Captain Clarkson was to proceed in the beginning of November. The King's packet per H. C. chartered ship Marquis of Hastings was to be closed about the 15th of November.



*Specimens of
Bridges across the Rivers
of the Himalaya*

